

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02955 272124Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 (ISO) W
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O R 271935Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2899

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2955

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: (A) FBIS LONDON 270121Z MAY 75; (B) LISBON 2923;
(C) FBIS LONDON 261948Z MAY 75

SUMMARY: AFM ASSEMBLY MAY 26 INSTRUCTED REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TO ACT FIRMLY AND QUICKLY TO RESOLVE IMPASSE WITH SOCIALISTS. ASSEMBLY STRONGLY CRITICIZED CONTINUING SOCIALIST BOYCOTT OF GOVERNMENT AND APPROVED GENERAL PROPOSAL FOR STRENGTHENING DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN AFM AND THE PEOPLE. BRIG. CARVALHO HAS CRITICIZED PARTISAN BICKERING AND WARNED AFM MAY HAVE TO TAKE COMPLETE CHARGE OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO ECHO UNITY THEME AND SUPPORT FOR AFM WHILE PPD REGROUPS UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 LISBON 02955 272124Z

1. AFM ASSEMBLY CRITICAL OF PS: AFM ASSEMBLY MET

DURING MOST OF MAY 26 TO CONSIDER INTER ALIA CONTINUING POLITICAL IMPASSE WITH SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) AND ITS SUPPORTERS. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING MEETING (REF A) WAS VERY CRITICAL OF SOCIALISTS. AFTER HEARING REPORT OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTED COUNCIL TO ACT FIRMLY TO RESOLVE CURRENT CRISIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THE COUNCIL WAS ALSO INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY AND IMPRESS UPON THE PS LEADERS THE CRITICISMS OF THE ASSEMBLY BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTINUING BOYCOTT OF MINISTERIAL MEETINGS.

2. ASSEMBLY APPROVED THE OUTLINES OF A PROPOSAL FOR STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN THE AFM AND "THE PEOPLE." THE PLAN STRESSES A "UNITARY APPROACH" DESIGNED TO OVERCOME PARTISAN POLITICAL DIFFERENCES. A WORKING GROUP IS TO DEVELOP THE PROPOSAL.

3. COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTED: (A) APPROVAL OF MOTION BY NCOS OF THREE BRANCHES OF ARMED FORCES URGING THAT THOSE IN TOP AFM POSITIONS HAVE HIGH POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS, PRESTIGE, AND DEVOTION TO REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE; (B) REPORT BY ADMIRAL PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO RE NATO MEETING INDICATING PORTUGUESE DELEGATION HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO ANY PRESSURES AS RESULT OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION; (C) CONTINUED FULL CONFIDENCE IN LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES.

4. BRIG. CARVALHO TAKES HARD LINE: IN AN IMPROMPTU PRESS INTERVIEW PRIOR TO ASSEMBLY, BRIG. OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO SAID PARTY BICKERING WAS OF NO INTEREST TO THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE AND ONLY SERVED TO DIVIDE THE WORKERS FROM THE REST OF THE PEOPLE (REF C). THE ONLY POSSIBILITY HE HELD OUT FOR OVERCOMING PARTISAN DIFFERENCES WAS FOR AFM ITSELF TO ASSUME COMPLETE CHARGE OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, BYPASSING POLITICANS AND ESTABLISHING LINKS DIRECTLY WITH PEOPLE. OTELO ADDED THAT EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS "ARE SECRETLY WORKING FOR INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM."

5. MILITARY INTERVENES IN OPORTO: A THREE-MAN MILITARY COMMISSION WAS SWORN IN MAY 27 TO REPLACE THE TWELVE-MEMBER CIVILIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF OPORTO. THE ACTION, TAKEN BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, FOLLOWS MONTHS OF SQUABBLING AMONG COUNCIL MEMBERS
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PAGE 03 LISBON 02955 272124Z

APPOINTED LAST SEPTEMBER. INABILITY OF THE FOUR COALITION PARTIES (PPD, PC, MDP, AND THE PS UNTIL IT WITHDREW IN MARCH) TO AGREE ON EVEN ROUTINE MATTERS LED TO THE ACTION. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE OPORTO ACTION REFLECTS AN OVERALL STRATEGY BY THE AFM, THE ACTION COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR DEALING WITH SIMILAR INTERPARTY BICKERING ELSEWHERE.

6. COMMUNISTS ECHO UNITY THEME: COMMUNISTS (PCP) CONTINUE TO

HAMMER AWAY ON THE POPULAR UNITY THEME, WHILE ATTACKING SOCIALIST PARTY -- ESPECIALLY LEADERSHIP. PCP HAS ANNOUNCED RALLY FOR EVENING OF MAY 28 IN SUPPORT OF AFM. THE SOCIALISTS HAVE ATTACKED RALLY CALL AS TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT BY PCP TO USE AFM AND REVOLUTION FOR PARTISAN POLITICAL PURPOSES IN VIOLATION OF PRE-ELECTORAL PACT SIGNED BY ALL PARTIES.

7. PPD SELECTS INTERIM LEADER: PPD NATIONAL COUNCIL ON MAY 24 SELECTED EMIDIO GUERREIRO, A 75-YEAR OLD PARTY WAR HORSE WITH OUTSTANDING ANTIFASCIST CREDENTIALS, (BIO FOLLOWS) TEMPORARILY TO REPLACE SA CARNEIRO AS SECRETARY-GENERAL. SA CARNEIRO RETURNED FROM LONDON, WHERE HE WAS UNDERGOING MEDICAL TREATMENT, TO CHAIR SPECIAL MEETING. HIS PRESENCE AND PPD DECISION TO DESIGNATE INTERIM LEADER PENDING RECOVERY OF SA CARNEIRO COULD GIVE PPD MUCH NEEDED BOOST.

8. COMMENT: NEITHER AFM NOR PS HAS BLINKED. MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN SOARES AND MEMBERS OF THE PC. TIME AND PLACE HAVE NOT YET BEEN SET. RC IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP PS ISSUE AT REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 28.

9. NEW SUBJECT: MEDIA JUST REPORTED (AFTER ABOVE WAS DRAFTED) THAT AFM ASSEMBLY PROMOTED BOTH PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES AND OTELO CARVALHO FROM BRIGADIER TO FULL GENERAL. THIS DEMONSTRATIVE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE TWO MEN, PARTICULARLY AT THIS DELICATE MOMENT, IS BOUND TO DISHEARTEN THE SOCIALISTS. IN VIEW OF OTELO'S COMMENTS, IT COULD ALSO PRESAGE A TOUGHER AFM LINE TOWARDS ALL PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE SOCIALISTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, SOCIALISM, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON02955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750185-0599
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750517/aaaaapfa.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 FBIS LONDON 270121Z, 75 MAY 75, 75 LISBON 2923
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PO, AFM, SOCIALIST PARTY, (GUERREIRO, EMIDIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006